

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
A living Faith Community since 1876



*“Where All are Welcomed and  
Fed at the Table.”*

# Christ Church Chronicle

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.” – Matthew 26:40-41

## Making Room for God



The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus  
Christ - January 6

I make room for God when I open myself to the presence of God in all things and in all thoughts.

I make room for God when I “trust in the Lord with all my heart, not rely on my own understanding, in all ways submit to God, who makes straight my paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I make room for God when I practice the two Great Commandments: love God with all my being and love my neighbor.

I make room for God when I patiently wait in line for service and not say to myself, “Hurry up!” “Move it!”

I make room for God when I pray.

I make room for God when I am an instrument of peace, when I reconcile with another person.

I make room for God when I seek forgiveness.

I make room for God when I sing and dance.

I make room for God when I celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

I make room for God when I receive the Sacraments.

I make room for God when I read and study the Word of God/the Holy Scripture

I make room for God when I deliver meals-on-wheels.

I make room for God when I listen to God and take the way intended for me.

I make room for God when I listen attentively to another person.

I make room for God when I have compassion and care for others.

I make room for God when I am a good steward of creation.

- *Father Henry L. Doyle*



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ - December 25

## It's Greek To Me – *The Minutes are More Important Than the Years*



St. Thomas the Apostle,  
December 21

*The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear [the Word], but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. – Luke 8:14*

It is very easy to fill up our days with all the things that “must be done”. And when we have done that, we then fill them with things that give us a ‘break’ from those necessities. In other words, we can spend an entire lifetime alternating between work and play that we then discover after years have passed, we have not actually accomplished anything of lasting, spiritual value.

This world is not set up to make it easy to make room for God in our lives. That is something that has to be deliberately chosen and practiced. It is a rare soul for whom such practice comes naturally. In this passage, Jesus warns us that we can choke out the Word of Life by simply being too caught up in the day to day, with no time for long-term spiritual growth.

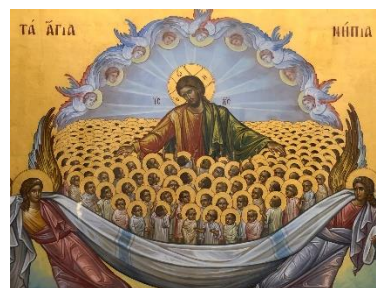
The phrase ‘life’s worries’ is the Greek word ‘merimna’ and carries with it the idea of distractions that create anxiety. The word ‘riches’ is ‘ploutos’ and means having an abundance. Finally, the word ‘pleasures’ is ‘hedone’ and implies doing things that please.

Note that none of these things are in themselves ‘bad’. The things we often worry about and give generous time to are serious things; our children, our jobs, etc. Jesus is not here saying that we only get pulled away from spiritual things by sin or otherwise evil things. He is warning us that the normal, and even good, things of life can crowd out God as well.

My spiritual mentor used to say, “The minutes are more important than the years”. We keep meaning to find time to draw closer to God, but until we make a deliberate and sustained effort to do so, the time of our lives slips away from us so quickly and so easily. The word ‘choked’ in this passage is the Greek word ‘sumpnigo’ and it means to strangle, to drown, to crowd out.

We need to make a resolve to create and sustain a daily practice that feeds our souls and little by little we will find we have made progress in experiencing God’s presence, God’s peace, God’s joy, in ways we never thought possible. But, “The minutes are more important...”. Let’s get going! (And if you need help getting started, talk to someone who can help suggest ways to do that!)

- *Rev. George Favell*



The Holy Innocents - December 28

## End of the Year Contributions

Please place your end of the year contribution in the offering plate no later than Sunday evening, 24 December 2023, so that it is credited to your 2023 statement. If you mail in your contribution, please make sure that the postal service has postmarked the envelope by the date of 30 December 2023. We must adhere to government regulations, in order to maintain our non-profit status. Thank you very much.

## Sunday Worship Schedule for December 2023 & January 2024

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Sunday, December 10, 2023 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Morning Prayer - 10:30am

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve  
No morning service. Holy Eucharist at 6pm.

Sunday, December 31, 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Sunday, January 7, 2024 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany - Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am



**St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr - December 26**

Sunday, January 14, 2024 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
Morning Prayer - 10:30am

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am



**The Holy Name of Jesus -  
January 1**

## Annual Meeting!

Our Annual meeting will be on Sunday, February 4, after the Sunday service. Please have all materials to the office no later than January 23, preferably much earlier as they become available.

## The Major Addresses at the ECMN 2023 Convention

You can watch the actual messages given by our Bishop and the Presiding Bishop at these web addresses:

Bishop Loya's Address at the 2023 ECMN Convention:

<https://vimeo.com/883613786>

Presiding Bishop Curry's Address at the 2023 ECMN Convention:

<https://vimeo.com/883619764>



Christ Church's United Thank Offerings have been very successful this year with the spring ingathering offering being \$182 and the fall ingathering offering being \$157 for a total this year of \$339. Thanks be to God for all of our thankfulness! Be sure to grab a NEW BOX! Below is a story of just one of the UTO 2023 grant recipients.

### *The United Thank Offering 2023 Grant Recipient Spotlight*

#### *Bridges Reentry*

#### *The Episcopal Church, Diocese of Arizona*

**Tell us about what the UTO grant allowed you to do?**

The mission of Bridges Reentry, Inc. is to provide a reentry environment of healing for formerly incarcerated women to support them in their journey toward physical well-being, emotional and spiritual health, and economic independence. We empower women, through our programs, services, and a supportive community, to realize their full potential.

**What is your biggest success from the grant?**

The UTO award is allowing us to expand programming to support our Whole Woman Wellness strategy. One of the glaring gaps in education of Americans is how to manage money. We have introduced a new financial wellness program into the Perryville Prison, My Financial Academy, for women preparing for release. Most have never had a checking or savings account and never worked on a budget. Preliminary data indicates encouraging change in their confidence to manage their money upon release.

To learn more about Bridges Reentry, or to support their work visit:

<https://www.bridgesreentry.org>

### *Ecumenical Food Pantry*

Thank you for your support of this important Albert Lea ministry located at First Presbyterian Church. Our total food gifts to the food pantry for this year have been:

	20 lbs.	of food on April 5
	9 lbs.	June 6
	31 lbs.	August 31
	<u>38 lbs.</u>	November 4
Total	98 lbs.	

You bring the food and I promise to deliver it to the food pantry! REMEMBER - Hunger knows no limits! - *Gail Thurnau*

*A ray of sunlight shining on a smudgy window, is unable to illumine that window completely and transform it into its own light. It could do this, if the window were cleaned and polished... The extent of illumination is not dependent on the ray of sunlight but on the window. If the window is totally clean and pure, the sunlight will so transform and illumine it, that to all appearances the window will be identical with the ray of sunlight and shine just as the sun's ray. The soul on which the divine light of God's being is ever shining, or better, in which it is ever dwelling by nature, is like this window. A soul makes room for God by wiping away all the smudges and smears of creatures, by uniting its will perfectly to God's, for to love is to labor, to divest and deprive oneself for God, of all that is not God. When this is done, the soul will be illumined by and transformed in God. - St John of the Cross*

The American Legion Post 56 in Albert Lea is hosting a Fund-raiser Breakfast every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, from 8am to 12:30 pm!



Look! The tabernacle of God is with humanity, and He will dwell with them. They shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. There shall be no more death. Neither shall there be any more sorrow nor crying nor pain, for the former things have passed away.



## New Revised Common Lectionary Sunday Readings

3-Dec	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
10-Dec	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
17-Dec	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
24-Dec	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
31-Dec	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
7-Jan	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
14-Jan	1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21-Jan	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
28-Jan	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



St. John, Apostle and  
Evangelist - December  
27

## Community Communication

### Father Doyle

Home - 507-334-3742

Cell - 507-491-2695

Office - 507-333-1651

Email: [henry.doyle@s-sm.org](mailto:henry.doyle@s-sm.org)

Mailing Address: 500 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW, #301, Faribault, MN 55021

### Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Office Phone: 507-373-3188

Office email: [cecalmn@gmail.com](mailto:cecalmn@gmail.com)

Website: [christchurchal.org](http://christchurchal.org)

**Priest-in-Charge:** *The Rev. Henry Doyle*

**Senior Warden:** *Savile Lord*

**Vestry:** *Kenneth Johnson*

*Jeff Shaft*

**Music Director:** *Gail Thurnau*

**Treasurer:** *Joy Shaft*

**Parish Administrator/Secretary:**

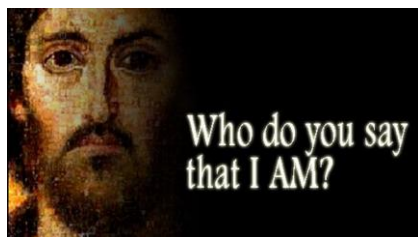
*The Rev. George M. Favell*

## Fr. Henry - Please keep me in the loop

Far too often, you might hesitate to inform me of your desire/need for pastoral care, because you do not want to bother me. On the contrary, you are not bothering me when you inform me of a major illness, yours or a loved one's illness. Because of privacy issues and regulations, staff at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities will not contact me. You, a family member, or a close friend must contact me, if you have a pastoral need.

## Prayer Scripture

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 3:12-14



The Confession of St. Peter - January 18

## Meditation Prayer

*Book of Common Prayer, page 225*

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, *loving you in all things and above all things*, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Christ Episcopal Church December & January Birthdays

### December

15 - Phiz Olson

15 - Shannon Roberts

18 - Sophia Paulson

20 - Tanner Shaft

### January

10 - Taylor Shaft



The Conversion of Saint Paul - January 25

## The NLC's Annual Christmas Festival 2023!

In Christ's birth we see, hear, and feel a sense of renewal as Christmas connects us to the roots of our faith. Join the National Lutheran Choir at the magnificent Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the beloved Christmas Festival tradition!

This year's festival, titled *New Hope*, will celebrate old beside new; the program will include works from the 16th century to the present, including Gabrieli's *Hodie Christus natus est*, Randall Thompson's *Ye Were Sometimes Darkness*, and an arrangement by our new Artistic Director, Jennaya Robison. Carols, readings, and music from brass, oboe, harp, and organ will sound throughout the Basilica to ring in another Christmas.

### New Hope

#### *Finding light in unexpected places*

#### *In Person Concerts*

Friday, December 8th - 4:30pm

Saturday, December 9th - 1:30pm and 8:00pm

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Adults and Seniors: \$35 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Discounts for groups of 10+! Call the NLC office at 612-722-2301 for more information.

#### *Livestream*

Saturday, December 9th - 1:30pm CT

Free to all | Visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) to watch!

For tickets and more information, visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com).

## December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Healing – 9:30am**
3 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	4 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	5 Office 8-12	6 Chair Yoga – 9am**	7 Office 8-12	8	9 Healing – 9:30am**
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Morning Prayer – 10:30am <b>Vestry mtg – 9:15am</b>	11 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	12 Office 8-12	13 Chair Yoga – 9am**	14 <b>Office CLOSED</b>	15	16 Healing – 9:30am**
17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist - 10:30am	18 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	19 Office 8-12	20 <b>EMBER DAY</b> Chair Yoga – 9am**	21 Office 8-12	22 <b>EMBER DAY</b>	23 <b>EMBER DAY</b> Healing – 9:30am**
24 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – <b>CHRISTMAS EVE – NO MORNING SERVICE</b> – Holy Eucharist – 6pm	25 <b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> – Christmas Day	26 <b>Office CLOSED</b> <b>SAINT STEPHEN – DEACON AND MARTYR</b>	27 Chair Yoga – 9am** <b>SAINT JOHN – APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</b>	28 Office 8-12 <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	29	30 Healing – 9:30am**
31 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am						

**\*\*** Please check with Clemencia to confirm location and if class is full.

[bebegu@live.com](mailto:bebegu@live.com) or 507-377-2718.



## January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	2 Office 8-12	3 Chair Yoga – 9am**	4 Office 8-12	5	6 <b>THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> Chair Yoga – 9am**
7 1 <sup>ST</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – <b>THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> - Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	8 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	9 Office 8-12	10 Chair Yoga – 9am**	11 <b>Office CLOSED</b>	12	13 Healing – 9:30am**
14 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – Morning Prayer – 10:30am	15 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	16 Office 8-12	17 Chair Yoga – 9am**	18 <b>THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE</b> Office 8-12	19	20 Healing – 9:30am**
21 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	22 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	23 Office 8-12	24 Chair Yoga – 9am**	25 <b>THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE</b> Office 8-12	26	27 Healing – 9:30am**
28 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	29 <b>YOGA RETREAT</b>	30 Office 8-12	31 Chair Yoga – 9am**			

**\*\*** Please check with Clemencia to confirm location and if class is full.

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